

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the courteous interview granted by the examiner to George H. Gerstman, counsel for applicant, on February 10, 2004.

Pursuant to the interview, claims 1, 2, 5, 9-18, 23-25 and 27-30 have been cancelled and new claim 31 is presented herewith. Reconsideration and allowance of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns a novel method of activating a gaming machine by an individual player for subsequent play. A card carried by the player is displayed to the gaming machine, without physical contact with the gaming machine. The card comprises suitable electronics for data transmission. Wireless transfer is caused of first individualized data concerning the player from the card to the gaming machine or to a computer network that is associated with the gaming machine. The data is evaluated against a stored database. Upon favorable evaluation of the data, the gaming machine provides a personalized greeting to the player. Biometric sensing is provided as separate, personal identification to the gaming machine. The biometric sensing is evaluated. The gaming machine is activated for the subsequent play upon favorable evaluation of the data and the biometric sensing. Either during or after the subsequent play, wireless transfer is caused of the second, individualized data back to the card to be stored.

All of applicant's claims now include the just-described method, which is not disclosed or taught by the prior art, whether taken singly or in combination with each other. As recognized by the examiner, among other things, Walker et al. does not disclose a contactless card carried by the player which is displayed to the gaming machine without physical contact with the gaming machine. Nor does Walker et al.

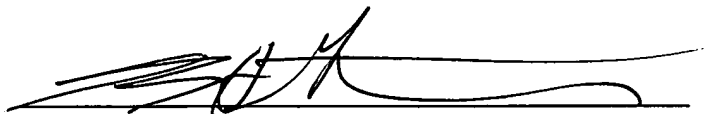
disclose providing a personalized greeting to the player upon favorable evaluation of data that is evaluated against a stored database. Nor does Walker et al. disclose biometric sensing in addition to use of a card. In fact, Walker teaches one away from this by indicating that the device for measuring player biometrics would eliminate the need for players to carry player identification cards.

Orus et al. does not remedy the deficiencies of Walker et al. First, the combination of references is not suggested by the references themselves. In particular, Walker et al. makes clear the necessity of a card that is physically inserted into the machine and draws one away from any idea, structure or method relating to a contactless card. Further, Orus et al. does not disclose or suggest a gaming machine providing a personalized greeting to the player upon favorable evaluation of data evaluated against a stored database.

A sincere effort has been made to limit the claims to a form that very clearly distinguishes the present invention over the prior art. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. H. Gerstman', is written over a horizontal line.

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Registered Attorney for Applicant
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